

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
FOI/PA# 1215560-1

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4-3  
(12-2-54)

11311

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Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

DECODE OF CODED CABLE NUMBER 347 DATED APRIL 29, 1956 AT  
HAVANA, CUBA. RECEIVED VIA THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

*Political matters*

CARCASE. REMYLET APRIL 23 LAST. OPPOSITION FORCES TODAY  
ATTACKED CUBAN ARMY FORT AT MATANZAS, CUBA. ATTACK REPULSED  
WITH TOTAL OF 13 DEAD. GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAY SITUATION  
UNDER CONTROL.

CLARK D. ANDERSON

RECEIVED:

4:29-56

8:48 PM

REC'D  
MAY 3 1956

REC'D  
MAY 3 1956

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/9/87 BY 60290 JLE/jms/peb

109-12-210  
NOT RECORDED  
176 MAY 3 1956

Original: Director  
C. Mr. Ferman

50 MAY 8 1956

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated  
outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in  
order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

Director, FBI (109-430)

April 23, 1956

Legat, Havana (109-32)

CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, ET AL  
FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTER - CUBA  
NEUTRALITY MATTER; REGISTRATION ACT

45530

Re my cable 4/3/56, advising of arrest of group of Cuban Army officers who were accused of conspiring to overthrow the BATISTA Government. The purpose of this letter is to furnish the Bureau a summary of additional developments to date and background for use in the event the situation develops to the point that it is necessary to further communicate with the Bureau by cable.

As set forth in reference cable, the group of officers arrested on April 2, 1956, was headed by Colonel RAMON BARQUIN LOPEZ, who at the time of his arrest, was the Cuban Military Attache in Washington. In addition to Colonel BARQUIN, the following officers were arrested and tried:

Lieutenant Colonel MANUEL VARELA CASTRO, Commander of a tank regiment.  
Major JOSE ORIHEULA, a professor at the Officers' School.  
Major ENRIQUE BORBONET, Commander of a parachute unit.  
Major ENRIQUE RIOS MOREJON  
Captain ERNESTO DESPAIGNE  
Captain HUGO VAZQUEZ  
Captain RAUL TRAVIESO PLA  
Lieutenant RENE TRAVIESO PLA  
Lieutenant MANUEL A. VILLAFANA  
Lieutenant RINALDO PEREZ FIGUERES  
Lieutenant JOSE R. PLANAS DE LA TORRE  
Lieutenant JOSE R. FERNANDEZ ALVAREZ

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/9/93 BY 60205E/au/pe

The above 13 men were tried by summary court martial on April 9, 1956. All were convicted and Colonel BARQUIN and the first six men mentioned above were sentenced to terms of six years each on charges of conspiring to overthrow the Government. The remaining six men received sentences of four years and two months.

In addition to the above, a number of other officers and soldiers were arrested but released for lack of evidence. On April 16, 1956, JOSE RABEL NUNEZ, a long-time friend and contact of this office, advised that while a lieutenant in the Cuban Army he had been involved in the conspiracy. He said that it had been planned that a group of career officers, headed by Colonel BARQUIN, would take over the Army, seize President BATISTA and his family, and certain high-ranking officers of the Cuban Army and fly them to either Mexico or the United States. He said that thereafter it was

CDA:NEG

63 MAY 10 1956

109-12-210

NOT RECORDED

178 MAY 8 1956

ORIGINAL FILED IN

4-23-56

45531

Letter to the Director

planned to hold elections immediately with the person elected President taking office on October 10, 1956. RABEL said the conspiracy was scheduled to be carried out at 3 a.m., on April 5, 1956. He said that the conspiracy was discovered due to the fact that Major RIOS MOREJON, stationed at the Cabana Fortress in Havana, approached a young lieutenant to join them in the conspiracy and the latter immediately reported the matter to his superiors with the result that RIOS MOREJON was arrested on April 2, 1956, and under questioning disclosed the plot and involved the others.

RABEL said that he, himself, was arrested and held incommunicado for about two days, but that he refused to talk and due to lack of evidence against him he was released. He said he thereafter resigned from the Army of his own volition.

RABEL indicated the above conspiracy was strictly limited to persons within the Cuban Army. He said there are a number of undetected conspirators still in the Army and that a further movement can be expected in the not too distant future with the difference being that civil elements will be involved in the next movement. He also indicated that the next movement will not be a peaceful one and in all probability efforts will be made to assassinate President BATISTA and other high figures in the Cuban Government.

BATISTA has always considered the Cuban Army as completely loyal to him since he has done so much for the Army. It would appear that the fact that a group of professional officers would attempt a conspiracy to overthrow him has been something of a psychological blow to BATISTA. On April 12, 1956, HARRY PEREZ FERNANDEZ, a contact of this office and close associate of ex-President RAMON GRAU SAN MARTIN, advised that on April 10, 1956, he had had a conversation with the Minister of Communications, RAMON VASCONCELOS, who naturally was closely associated with the BATISTA Government. VASCONCELOS indicated to him that immediately after the discovery of the conspiracy he had been with BATISTA and the latter had appeared most downhearted and had inferred that he was in a mood to give up the Government.

On April 14, 1956, BATISTA gave an improvised speech at Camp Columbia in Havana in which he rather obviously tried to build up the loyalty of the Cuban armed forces and indicated that the conspiracy of the officers was a minor thing.

109-12-210



4-23-56

45532

Letter to the Director

On Thursday, April 19, 1956, there began a series of incidents in the town of Santiago de Cuba involving student demonstrations and terroristic acts. In the first student demonstration soldiers fired against the crowd injuring two students. On the night of April 19, 1956, there were four isolated cases in Santiago in which either soldiers or policemen were fired on from passing automobiles. One police corporal and one corporal of the Army were killed.

There were some student disturbances at the University of Havana on April 20, 1956, and on April 21, 1956, a group of the Cuban National Police, headed by the Chief of Police, Brig. General RAFAEL SALES CANIZARES, invaded the University grounds and searched all the buildings there. This has caused considerable tension due to the fact that under the Cuban Constitution the University of Havana is autonomous and police are not permitted within the grounds.

On April 23, 1956, the Army Attache here reported information received from a former Cuban Army officer, described as usually completely reliable, to the effect that the assassination of President BATISTA had been scheduled for April 20, 1956, but not carried out due to lack of opportunity. This source said that the death of BATISTA will be a signal for a general revolt led by men who were former officers of the Army during the PRIO regime.

BATISTA is scheduled to serve as President of Cuba until February 24, 1959. It appears to be the consensus of opinion that he may not serve out this term and that one of the three possibilities can occur within the relatively near future.

1. BATISTA will be assassinated and this will lead to a general state of anarchy and chaos in Cuba.
2. BATISTA might step down as President in which case there would probably be a general state of confusion and considerable effort on the part of many to take over as President.
3. The most logical solution and the one which would probably benefit the most for Cuban would be for BATISTA to announce general elections in the near future, insure that such elections were completely honest, and deliver the Government to the person elected by this means.

4-23-56

Letter to the Director

45533

All of the above information is available to the Embassy and for this reason no dissemination has been made. As stated above, it is being furnished to the Bureau for its own background and to be considered in the light of future communications from this office.

109-12-210



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (109-430)

FROM : *WMA* Legal Attache, Havana, Cuba (109-32)

DATE: May 11, 1956

SUBJECT: CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, ET AL  
FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTER - CUBA  
NEUTRALITY MATTER; REGISTRATION ACT

45526  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/9/01 BY *SP-6/mjg*

*Political Matter - Cuba*  
Remylet 4-23-56 and my cables 4-29-56 and 5-9-56.

As a follow-up to the conviction of the 13 Army officers reported in reference letter, there have been numerous transfers, retirements and discharges within the Army. This has served to create a situation of general unrest in the Army and there are continuing rumors of possible revolutionary action on the part of dissident elements in the Army.

At about 12:30 p.m. 4-29-56 a group of civilians endeavored to attack the Cuban Army Regimental Headquarters at Matanzas, a town located about 60 miles to the East of Havana. According to official announcements given to the press by the Government, six dump trucks of the type used to haul sand and gravel drove up to the gate of the Headquarters and were permitted to enter the patio of the Headquarters by the soldier on duty at the gate, hereafter, although the accounts are not completely clear, shooting broke out between the persons riding in the trucks and the soldiers stationed at the Headquarters. First official announcements by the Government stated that the attack was repulsed and dominated with a total of three soldiers being wounded and "more than ten" of the attackers being killed. Subsequent official statements have given the total number dead among the attackers as fifteen.

There have been considerable street rumors to the effect that all the attackers were not killed in the initial assault but were captured and killed later.

The BATISTA Government wasted no time in taking rapid action following the attack. On the night of 4-29-56 the Government announced that Constitutional guarantees were suspended for a period of 45 days. This was followed by an announcement of press and radio censorship throughout the island.

From the reports of the attack at Matanzas, there was considerable indication that the Government had advance notice of the pending attack and that the attackers were led into a trap. This fact

Enclosure  
(ENCLOSURE)

109-12-210-111  
INDEXED-75  
RECORDED-75

109-430-1516  
25 MAY 18 1956

EX - 120

53 JUN 4 1956  
(7)  
cc to New York  
cc to Miami  
by R/S - 5-24-56  
RDC/jxt

ESP-306  
Carmichael

Havana (109-32)

7066

was confirmed on 5-10-56 by Mr. EDMUND CHESTER, a close personal friend of President BATISTA and a contact of this office.

Concerning the possibility that all the attackers were not killed in the initial assault, the Latin American edition of Time Magazine, which edition is printed in Havana with plates sent down from the United States, in its issue of May 14, 1956, which was printed in Havana on May 8, 1956, carried an article regarding the attack at Matanzas. This article stated that 7 attackers were killed outright, three were wounded and finished off before they could surrender, three were killed attempting to escape from Matanzas, and two were shot after they had been captured and returned to the barracks in handcuffs. On 5-9-56 Mr. BENITO J. LAGUERUELA, Manager of the Omega Printing Plant in Havana which prints the Latin American edition of Time, advised SA JOHN J. WACHTER that a total of 62 thousand copies of the May 14th issue had been printed in Havana on 5-8-56. He said that the Cuban Government was apparently unaware that this edition of Time is printed in Havana and, therefore, no Government censor had been assigned to the printing plant. Mr. LAGUERUELA advised that 58,000 copies of this edition intended for other Latin countries were shipped out by air on the evening of 5-8-56. Thereafter, LAGUERUELA called the Minister of the Interior, who has charge of the censorship, and advised him of the fact that Time was carrying the article and that no censor had examined it.

Mr. LAGUERUELA said that this was followed immediately by a from ENRIQUE FERNANDEZ PARAJON, Chief of the Cuban Secret Police, and a group of his agents. Result was that the 4,000 remaining copies of the edition which were intended for distribution in Cuba were seized and confiscated by the Government.

Attached hereto is a clipping of the Time article in question. A copy of the issue of 5-14-56 was made available to this office by Dr. MARIO LAZO of the law firm of LAZO and CUBAS, which firm handles legal work for Time and Life in Cuba.

Dr. LAZO advised on 5-9-56 that a Cuban photographer had been successful in taking several photographs showing the two handcuffed men being shot by the Cuban soldier at the fort in Matanzas. He said that he understood these photographs had been sold to Life and that they will be published in Life's edition in Spanish in the near future. It might be noted that this edition is not printed in Cuba.

As a follow-up to the attack at Matanzas, police in Havana seized several rather large arms deposits which included rifle ammunition, hand grenades and dynamite. In connection with each seizure, as was

## CUBA

### Suicide Mission

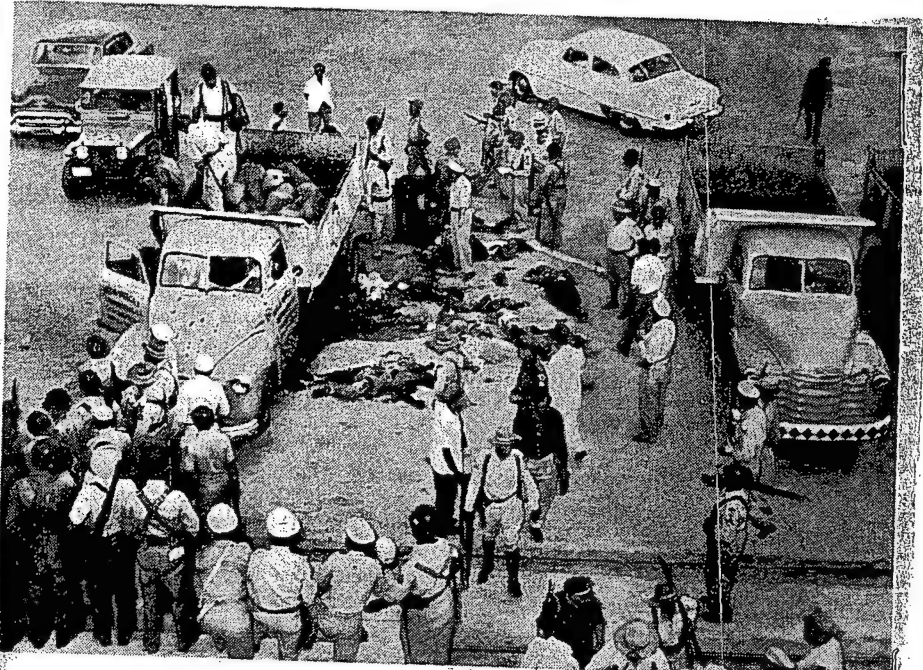
Three yellow dump trucks and a pick-up truck rumbled past the sentry at the main gate of turreted Domingo Goicuría barracks, headquarters of the Matanzas military district. Accustomed to seeing similar trucks roll by without stopping, the sentry, last week, paid little attention until the caravan stopped in front of headquarters. Then he spotted a man standing in the back of one of the trucks with a grenade in his hand, and instantly fired his rifle as a warning signal.

At the shot, a band of men jumped up in the first truck and began mounting a machine gun in fumbling haste. The guard on duty at the headquarters entrance opened fire with a submachine gun and the barracks commandant, Colonel Pilar García, blazed away with a pistol from

the porch roof above. The luckless attackers got off only a single burst before their machine gun jammed, forcing them to dive to the ground where they were pinned down and riddled by machine-gun cross fire. Seeing the fate of the first truck, the crews of the others ran for safety. Outside the gate, two truckloads of reinforcements retreated on foot. Except for skirmishes between rebel stragglers and pursuing troops, the battle was over. The casualties: seven attackers killed outright, three wounded and finished off before they could surrender, three killed attempting to escape from Matanzas, two shot after they had been captured and returned to the barracks in handcuffs. Three soldiers were wounded.

The attack led by 32-year-old Reynold García, a hot-headed member of the Auténtico Party of ex-President Carlos Prío Socarrás, was doomed from the start. Apparently it had no real political back-

ing, and was intended solely to capture and blow up the barracks as a gesture of defiance to the government. Of the 50-odd recruits for the suicidal mission, only a few had ever fired a rifle.



REBEL DEAD IN MATANZAS BARRACKS COURTYARD  
Doomed from the start.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/9/03 BY 60290 BE/mof/aw

109-12-210-111

Time Magazine  
May 14, 1956

ENCLOSURE

na (109-32)

the case in connection with the attack at Matanzas, the Government was quick to accuse CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS of being the principal figure involved.

As was reported to the Bureau in reference cable of 5-9-56, PRIO departed Havana for Miami on that date on FAA flight 414 which departed Havana at 11:45 a.m. He was accompanied by his aide, ex Colonel of the National Police RAFAEL IZQUIERDO. There was some indication at the time that PRIO's departure may have resulted from a request from the Government in that PRIO was accompanied to the airport by Brigadier General RAFAEL SALAS CANIZARES, Chief of the Cuban National Police, and five radio patrol cars of the police.

The fact that PRIO's departure was not entirely voluntary was subsequently confirmed in an official announcement made by the Government. It was stated that PRIO had been informed by the Chief of Police that he had the choice of the following: a. Mending his wounds and turning in the arms still being hidden by him and his followers; b. Being faced with the prospect of going to jail since the Government had more than sufficient proof to convict him of piratical activities; or c. Leaving the country. It was stated that PRIO chose the latter alternative. PRIO on the other hand, alleged to the press that he had told General SALAS that the Government would kill him, jail him or throw him out of the country and that the Government did the latter.

The only casualties in connection with the departure of PRIO from the country occurred when an automobile driven by police Major RAY CASTRO, which was a part of the group escorting PRIO to the airport, crashed into an automobile entering the airport road with the result that a passenger in the latter automobile was killed and the driver seriously injured. RAY CASTRO suffered injuries of a very serious nature.

The above summary is furnished for the Bureau's information. Dissemination has been made locally since all the information is to be available to interested agencies in the Embassy. Four copies of this letter are attached in the event the Bureau desires to forward them to the New York and Miami Offices.



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Pic

Mr. McDermott  
Liaison

109-12-210

112

BY COURIER SERVICE

RECORDED - 36

14149

Date: May 23, 1956

To: Mr. Dennis A. Flinn (orig. and 1)  
Director  
Office of Security  
Department of State  
515 22nd Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: POSSIBLE REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES  
IN CUBA  
FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS - CUBA

This will confirm information telephonically  
furnished Mr. R. B. Goodell of your Department by  
Mr. L. E. Martin of this Bureau on May 18, 1956.  
Other agencies receiving copies of this communication  
were similarly notified telephonically on May 18, 1956.

The Legal Attache, United States Embassy,  
Havana, Cuba, advised on May 18, 1956, of receipt by  
his office and other Embassy offices of unsubstantiated  
reports that a revolution in Cuba might be attempted on  
May 19 or 20, 1956. The Cuban Government appeared  
cognizant of these reports and the situation in Cuba  
as of May 18, 1956, remained quiet.

The above is submitted for your information.

cc - 1 -

BY COURIER SERVICE

b7E

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

cc - 1 - AAG Tompkins (by 0-6, same date)

JJM:nlh:eb

(10)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BY COURIER SVC.

57 MAY 23

CO. 111-57

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Letter to Mr. Dennis A. Flinn  
Director  
Office of Security  
Department of State

014150

cc - 1 - Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence  
Department of the Army  
The Pentagon  
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Chief, Security Division

cc - 1 - Director of Naval Intelligence  
Department of the Navy  
The Pentagon  
Washington 25, D. C.

cc - 1 - Director of Special Investigations BY COMINT SERVICE  
The Inspector General  
Department of the Air Force  
Building Tempo 2  
4th and Adams Drive, S. W.  
Washington, D. C.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



4-3  
(12-2-54)

Tolson ☒  
Nichols ☒  
Boardman ☒  
Belmont ☒  
Mason ☒  
Mohr ☒  
Parsons ☒  
Rosen ☒  
Tamm ☒  
Nease ☒  
Winterrowd ☒  
Tele. Room ☒  
Holloman ☒  
Gandy ☒

DECODE OF CODED CABLE NUMBER 350 DATED MAY 18, 1956 AT  
HAVANA, CUBA. RECEIVED VIA THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

CARCASE. THIS OFFICE AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICES HAVE RECEIVED  
UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORTS THAT THERE MAY BE SOME SORT OF  
REVOLUTIONARY ATTEMPT HERE TOMORROW OR SUNDAY, MAY 20, WHICH IS  
CUBAN NATIONAL HOLIDAY. GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE AWARE OF THESE  
REPORTS AND SITUATION ABSOLUTELY QUIET AS OF NOW.

CLARK D. ANDERSON

RECEIVED: 5-18-56 7:05 PM DR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/9/03 BY 60290 ACE/mlt/kpt

RECORDED - 36

14 MAY 25 1956

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated  
outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in  
order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : *pd* Legal Attache, Havana, Cuba (109-54)

SUBJECT: FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS - CUBA

DATE: June 1, 1956

25320

ReBulet 5-7-56 to Legat, Paris, captioned "ESPIONAGE AND FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE MATTERS," (Bufile 66-6200-65). In accordance with the instructions contained therein, the following summary is submitted:

The present Government of Cuba is headed by President FULGENCIO BATISTA y ZALDIVAR. BATISTA and a group of his followers took over the Cuban Government by military coup d'etat on March 10, 1952. BATISTA was elected President in elections which were held on November 1, 1954, and in which he had no opponent. He took office on February 24, 1955, for a four-year term.

BATISTA, since taking over the Government in March, 1952, has demonstrated a rather consistent pro-United States and anti-Communist attitude. Diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union were suspended in March, 1952, and have not been renewed since that time. At a later date, the Partido Socialista Popular (PSP, Communist Party of Cuba), which had existed as a legal political party, was declared illegal and has been forced to exist in a clandestine manner since that time. Through a passport control law, efforts have been made to prevent the travel out of Cuba of known Communists.

There have been some few isolated cases of known former Communists having been named to fairly important posts in the Government. One of these was the case of an individual named ARSENIO GONZALEZ, who was appointed to the position of Sub-Secretary of Labor. To date, there has been no evidence of any large scale infiltration of the Government by individuals or organizations whose objectives are either directly opposed to the United States or are aimed at assistance to potential enemies of the United States.

The Bureau has been systematically informed of the activities of the PSP in Cuba, it being very definitely opposed to the BATISTA Government, and also of the activities of different opposition groups who are openly interested in overthrowing BATISTA and getting him out of office, either by peaceful means or by revolution. The principal advocate of a peaceful change has been Dr. RAMON GRAU SAN MARTIN, President of Cuba, 1944-1948. The two

CDA:ptm

RECORDED - 50

INDEXED-50

JUN 13 1956

Havana (109-54)

principal revolutionary groups have been headed in the past by CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, President of Cuba who was deposed by BATISTA in 1952, and FIDEL CASTRO, who led an unsuccessful attack on a Cuban Army fortress on July 26, 1953. Past performance of GRAU and PRIO when they were holding the position of President indicated that they were probably just as pro-United States as is BATISTA. FIDEL CASTRO is an unknown factor, but there is no reason to believe that he would be other than pro-United States if he were successful in taking over the Government, especially in view of the economic dependence of Cuba on the United States.

An additional letter will be submitted to the Bureau on December 1, 1956.

109-12-210-117

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Masca  
Liaison Section

45521

109-12-210 - 119

RECORDED-92

BY COURIER SERVICE

EX-100 Date: July 11, 1956

To: Mr. Dennis A. Flinn (orig & 1)  
Director  
Office of Security  
Department of State  
515 22nd Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

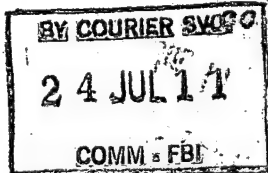
Subject: RUBEN ALDAMA ARGUELLES  
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

DECLASSIFIED BY 60405/mt/jk  
ON 6/9/83

Enclosed for the recipients of this communication is a copy of a memorandum dated June 25, 1956.

It is requested that no further dissemination be made of the enclosed memorandum by the recipients of this communication. It is further requested that the recipients of this communication use extreme care in handling the enclosed information due to the sensitive position of the source.

Enclosure



BY COURIER SERVICE  
(Enclosure)

b7E

cc - 1 - Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence (Enclosure)  
Department of the Army  
The Pentagon  
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Chief, Security Division

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mason \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

55 JUL 19 1956

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

100-12-210-119

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Letter to Mr. Dennis A. Flinn  
Director  
Office of Security  
Department of State

cc - 1 - Director of Naval Intelligence (Enclosure)  
Department of the Navy  
The Pentagon  
Washington 25, D. C.

cc - 1 - Director of Special Investigations BY COURIER SERVICE  
The Inspector General (Enclosure)  
Department of the Air Force  
Building Tempo E  
4th and Adams Drive, S. W.  
Washington, D. C.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 2 -

109-12-210-119

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : *M* Legat, Havana (109-12)

DATE: June 25, 1956

SUBJECT: CUBAN POLITICS  
FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTER - CUBA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~*Political Matters - Cuba*

Attached are five copies of a memorandum captioned, "RUBEN ALDAMA ARGUELLES," which memorandum is being furnished the Bureau to illustrate the activities of Cuban Police during the time constitutional guarantees were suspended for a 45-day period following an opposition attack on the Cuban Army fortress at Matanzas, Cuba, on April 29, 1956.

Source T-1 in the attached memorandum is [redacted]

b7D

[redacted] This information was furnished in deepest confidence by [redacted] who pointed out his job would be jeopardized if it ever became known that he furnished the information.

Copies of the attached memorandum were made available locally to the Counsellor of Embassy, [redacted] and the three service attaches. In the cover memorandum accompanying the attachment, all these offices were requested to use extreme care in the handling of the information due to the sensitive position of the source.

b7E

Enclosures - 5  
CDA:MEG  
(3)

DECLASSIFIED BY 60290 BCE/mult  
6/9/03  
ON

ENCLOSURE

EX-109

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RECORDED - 58

INDEXED-50  
EX-109

JUN 27 1956

ESP SEC

109-12-210-119

REC'D - REGIONAL



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

June 25, 1956

RE: RUBEN ALDAMA ARGUELLES *Urgency*

The June 23, 1956, issue of the Havana daily newspaper, "El Mundo," carried an article reporting that a new writ of habeas corpus in favor of the above individual had been presented by his mother, LAURA ARGUELLES DE ALDAMA, on June 22, 1956, to the Havana Urgency Court. Among other things, it was reported that the mother claimed that the subject and his brother, GUIDO ALDAMA ARGUELLES, had been arrested on May 15, 1956, by various police agents, including Colonel CONRADO CARRATALA UGALDE and Lieutenant ESTEBAN VENTURA NOVO. It was stated that GUIDO ALDAMA ARGUELLES had been released on May 17, 1956, but that nothing further had been seen of RUBEN.

On June 25, 1956, source T-1, a confidential source abroad, advised that following his arrest, RUBEN ALDAMA ARGUELLES had been administered a severe beating by Lieutenant VENTURA and other police agents. Thereafter he was taken to the Department of Investigation, Plain-Clothes Unit of the Cuban National Police and placed in one of the cells there.

Source said that the following morning it was discovered that RUBEN ALDAMA ARGUELLES had died in the cell during the night, apparently as the result of the beating administered to him. He said that thereafter the body of ALDAMA was removed from the Department of Investigation by a Lieutenant PLASENCIA of the Department and taken to a finca (farm) on the outskirts of Havana and buried. Source did not know the exact location of this finca.

It is to be noted that this incident occurred during the time constitutional guarantees were suspended in Cuba following the attack on the Cuban Army fortress at Matanzas, Cuba, April 29, 1956.

*1 - good copy, made (sent   by title)*  
*and*

b7E

DECLASSIFIED BY *60290BLE/mlt/gm*  
ON *6/9/03*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ENCLOSURE

*109-152-211-119*

4-22 (6-15-55)

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Records Section

, 1955

☐ Name Check Unit - Room 6523  
☐ Attention \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Service Unit - Room 6524  
☐ Forward to File Review  
☐ Return to V. H. [unclear] Ext. 2107  
                     Supervisor  
                     Room 1531

☐ All References  
☒ Subversive References  
☐ Main \_\_\_\_\_ References Only  
☐ Restrict to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_  
☒ Breakdown ☐ Buildup ☐ Variations  
☒ Exact Name Only  
☐ Exact Spelling  
☐ Check for Alphabetical Loyalty Form

SUBJECT Ruben Aldama ArguellesAddress Ruben ArguellesRuben Aldama

Localities \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate &amp; Place \_\_\_\_\_

R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date 7-3 Searcher Initial msH  
                     FILE NUMBER                      SERIAL

Ruben aldama  
64-1201-1558, p.19;  
Ruben aldama Arguelles  
64-1201-1558, p.19;  
Ruben Arguelles ET  
64-1201-1558, p.19;  
ET

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6/9/03 BY 60250CE/nlk

4-22 (6-15-55)

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Records Section

, 1955

☐ Name Check Unit - Room 6523☐ Attention \_\_\_\_\_☐ Service Unit - Room 6524☐ Forward to File Review☐ Return to V. H. NascaExt. 2107

Supervisor

1531

Room \_\_\_\_\_

☐ All References☒ Subversive References☐ Main \_\_\_\_\_ References Only☐ Restrict to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_☐ Breakdown ☐ Buildup ☐ Variations☐ Exact Name Only☒ Exact Spelling☐ Check for Alphabetical Loyalty FormSUBJECT Guido Aldama ArguellesAddress Guido ArguellesGuido Aldama

Localities \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate &amp; Place \_\_\_\_\_

R# \_\_\_\_\_

Date 7-3

Searcher

Initial mla

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

Guido AldamaNRGuido Aldama ArguellesNRGuido ArguellesNR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6/9/03BY 60290 BCE/mj/gst